
* BMHA Newsletter *

* BICYCLE MOBILE HAMS OF AMERICA *



Volume 11, Numbers 2-4

Oct/Nov/Dec 2000

EDITOR'S NOTEPAD

Introducing the New Editor!

My name is Scott Farrell, KE4WMF. Some of you may remember me from the 1998 HamVention where my full-suspension off-road bicycle-mobile station was featured. *CQ VHF* featured the same bicycle in their Feb '98 edition. I also contributed to *CQ VHF*'s "Project Corner" in Sep '98. My next bicycle-mobile endeavor may include a *WizWheelz* recumbent triycle.

For those of you who *don't* know me: I've been in the U.S. Coast Guard for 14 years and I am currently stationed in El Paso, TX as a recruiter. My regular job in the USCG is as a (weapons) Fire Control Technician (FT1). My lovely wife (and spell checker), Joanne, and I have been married for over nine years.

I find I have some time for writing now that things are "under control." However, it turned out the Newsletter needed more than a few articles. I was sorry to hear of Hartley's troubles, but felt I could lend a hand.

So here I am! I have a few visions for the Newsletter as well as some new ways to remain in contact. I won't do anything abrupt, but I will try something new from time to time. Feel free to visit my website at <http://members.aol.com/ke4wmf> to learn more about me. My bicycle-mobile station can be found by following the "Ham Radio" link.

Lost Issues of the BMHA Newsletter?

You're not losing your mind. The Apr/May/Jun and Jul/Aug/Sep issues did not make it to print. This time was quite challenging for our Founder/Chairperson/Editor and Organizer in General, Hartley Alley, NA0A. He has been the backbone of the club since its inception over 10 years ago. A one-person staff may have been appropriate back then. However, the club has grown and so have the responsibilities involved with keeping it great. I've found that there are two types of club members: those who make a difference and those who benefit from the first type. I've been in three different clubs over the years and have always been the second type. After hearing of Hartley's illness, I knew it was time to do something. I have a natural interest (*notice I didn't say ability?*) in writing and editing. So, this seemed to be a good step for me. Hartley truly is the glue that held the club together so for long. However, the time has come for more of us to step forward and assist. Please join me in making BMHA a club that's made by the members for the members.

Feel free to submit newsletter articles directly to me at ke4wmf@aol.com. Please continue to send letters, e-mail, and other correspondence to the addresses located in the club information box on the following page.

73,

Scott Farrell



Hartley had asked me to write a few articles for the BMHA Newsletter in 1999. However, Joanne and I had just moved to White Sands, NM and were still settling in. Soon thereafter, Joanne came down with a small infection that eventually grew into our five-month-old daughter, Diana. ;-)

BMHA NEWS

New Club Officers Appointed

BMHA has appointed new officers to bring BMHA in alignment with the Colorado Nonprofit Corporation Act. Expect to hear from the new President in the next issue. Here are the details, copied from the BMHA website:

CONSENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BICYCLE MOBILE HAMS OF AMERICA A COLORADO NONPROFIT CORPORATION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-23-110 of the Colorado Nonprofit Corporation Act, the undersigned being all of the Directors of Bicycle Mobile Hams of America (the "Corporation"), do hereby consent to, adopt, and approve the following actions taken as of May 25, 2000, without a meeting:

RESOLVED, of Incorporation, Fifth Article, shall be amended to increase the number of director from two (2) to three (3), and that the Board of Directors hereby directs counsel for the Corporation, Hartley David Alley, to prepare and file with the Colorado Secretary of State the necessary Articles of Amendment;

RESOLVED, that the resignations of Hartley Russell Alley as President, Jean Alley as Vice President, and Hartley David Alley as Secretary/Treasurer are accepted as effective May 26, 2000. The Board thanks these individuals for their faithful and loyal service to the Corporation;

RESOLVED, that whereas it is deemed desirable to appoint new corporate officers to serve until December 31, 2000, and thereafter, until their successors are appointed, therefore and effective May 26, 2000, the Corporation's officers shall be as follows:

President: Bil Paul
Vice President: Skip La Fetra
Secretary / Treasurer: Mike Nickolaus

RESOLVED, that effective June 1, 2000, the following persons are elected to serve as Directors of the Corporation until December 31, 2000 and thereafter, until their successors are elected:

Russell Dwarshuis, John Einberger, and Hartley R. Alley

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

/s/ Hartley R. Alley
/s/ Jean M. Alley

ATTEST:

/s/ Hartley D. Alley
Secretary



BMHA NEWSLETTER

Editor: Scott Farrell, KE4WMF

President: Bil Paul, KD6JUI
Vice President: Skip La Fetra, AA6WK
Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Nickolaus, NF0N
Webmaster/Webhost: Skip La Fetra, AA6WK

Directors: Russell Dwarshuis, KB8U John Einberger, N0MSA
Chairman and Founder: Hartley Alley, NA0A

BMHA NEWSLETTER is a quarterly publication of the Bicycle Mobile Hams of America - Jan, Apr, July, and Oct. Permission is given to reproduce any of the material in this issue, provided the author is credited and the source is acknowledged as "from the Newsletter of the Bicycle Mobile Hams of America." Please send a clip to the address below. We welcome articles, suggestions, letters, announcements, photos, artwork - anything pertaining to the combining of bicycling with amateur radio.

The BMHA is affiliated with Adventure Cycling Association, the League of American Bicyclists, and *Worldradio*.

BICYCLE MOBILE HAMS OF AMERICA (BMHA)
c/o Mike Nickolaus, NF0N
316 E. 32nd St. - I
South Sioux City, NE 68776-3512

E-mail: BMHA-Webmaster@LaFetra.com
Website: <http://www.LaFetra.com/BMHA/>

ABOUT BMHA

For the information of our first-time readers

Bicycle Mobile Hams of America got its start when a 'Stray' in the June '89 QST magazine asked to "get in touch with hams who operate their radios while bicycle-mobile," signed by Hartley Alley, NA0A. Twenty-five hams responded, filled out questionnaires, and received a summary of the collected data.

In April of '90 we had our first BMHA Forum at the Dayton HamVention. We played to a packed house, overflowed the room, and added 54 names to our mailing list. Our eight subsequent forums have drawn increasingly larger audiences, and now BMHA is firmly established as a 'regular' at this world-renowned event.

This is the thirty-ninth issue of our quarterly newsletter, which has become the clearinghouse for the exchange of info and ideas for the hams who go on the air from their bicycles.

BMHA membership puts you in touch with a friendly and helpful group of bike-riding hams. You'll make contacts through our membership directory, E-mail address list, E-mail discussion group, the annual meeting and Forum at the Dayton HamVention and other regional meetings, and of course through the BMHA Newsletter, which has articles on bike trips, antennas, other gear, operating tips, etc. A membership application is on the next-to-last page.

Our BMHA Founder -- Hartley Alley

by Skip La Fetra, AA6WK

Hartley Alley had four careers: professional musician, university professor, magazine photographer, and manufacturer of bicycle touring equipment. We know him most for his founding the BMHA in 1989.

Hartley and his wife Jean often worked as a team. In the 50's and 60's they free-lanced as a writer-photographer team, working assignments for such magazines as *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Woman's Day*, and *Seventeen*. They are the authors of three travel picture books.

By 1965 they had become avid bicycle riders, and yearly used to make bike tours in Britain and Europe. In 1970 they moved to Boulder and turned their biking hobby into a business by opening the Touring Cyclist Shop, a mail-order company that designed and manufactured bicycle touring packs. Hartley holds a patent for his design of panniers.

In 1971 Hartley founded, and for 10 years directed, the Bicycle Touring program for the Boulder chapter of the Colorado Mountain Club. In addition to leading numerous tours for the CMC, the Alleys bike-toured many times in Europe, and once even in China.

In 1984, they retired to more-or-less full-time bike riding. But in good time they were jolted out of retirement by an assignment to do a book titled "COLORADO CYCLING GUIDE." This book guides cyclists through 33 bicycle tours that cover most of the state of Colorado.

In 1987 Hartley fulfilled a boyhood dream by bicycling to his 50th high school reunion --- a 2,200-mile solo ride from Boulder to Lynn, Mass. His use of a ham radio on this trip led to his founding in 1989 the Bicycle Mobile Hams of America, a nation-wide club of bicyclists who carry ham radios on their bikes for communication in emergencies and in routine along-the-road situations.

The early days and WWII

This author's resources don't go into Hartley's boyhood or early studies, but he started out with a strong interest in music. From 1939-41 he majored in Music at Miami University (Oxford, OH). Then World War II came along, and Hartley was a Corporal in the US Air Force 610th Band. In 1945, he saw combat with the 45th Infantry Division in Germany, receiving the Purple Heart.

A history of music

After WWII, Hartley majored in music (Trombone) at Juilliard School of Music and Columbia University, earning a BA and MS. This led to a career as a musician in New York City, writing arrangements for various big bands and acts, including Mickey Rooney.

From 1950 to 1955 Hartley taught music and was the band director first at Hagerstown NM High School, and later at Denison University, in Granville, Ohio.

Bike touring and riding

In 1970, Hartley founded and co-owned the Touring cyclist Shop in Boulder, creating a line of nationally known bicycle touring packs. Certified as an Effective Cycling instructor, and founded bicycle touring, for the Boulder Group of the Colorado Mountain Club. In 1974, Hartley coached the FAC Racing Team (USCF), and was a member of the Colorado Governor's council on Health Promotion and Physical Fitness in 1983-84.

During this time, Hartley bicycle-toured annually in the US and Europe, making separate tours in England, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, and even China.



BMHA

Hartley founded the BMHA in 1989, with 'Stray' in the June '89 QST magazine asking to "get in touch with hams who operate their radios while bicycle-mobile." From there it was booths at the Dayton HamVention and watching the club grow from 25 or so initial members to about 400 people.

Although Hartley had many contributors, he guided the BMHA single-handedly until developing frailness forced him to hand over his creation of the January 2000 newsletter to a loose coalition of interested members. Since then, the club's website has grown slightly, but we have not had newsletters.

In June 2000, new officers were appointed to relieve Hartley, and in September we found a newsletter editor -- now bringing you this biography in his first edition.

73,

Skip La Fetra, AA6WK

Cycling to the Dog Wash

by Scott B Laughlin, N7NET

It wasn't long after the purchase of our trailer that we decided we should use it for carting our sandy-colored dog, McBark, to the dog wash. So, we set out to put our plan into action. Wisdom, it seems, does not always accompany age, because McBark at 63 human years fails to share our "green" views. He seemed not to care that using our tandem helps preserve the environment. He's long been a car dog and not about to change, at least willingly. In spite of his lack of enthusiasm, we went ahead with our cycling plans.



We were in Eugene, Oregon the Saturday morning this event occurred. A scuffle ensued, but the odds were not in his favor and eventually we secured him in place with a section of old volleyball netting.

Satisfied he would stay put, we set out for town, a journey of seven miles. We'd hardly gone a mile when a large white dog spotted our bike and charged down the lane as he had a thousand times before. Our trailer was familiar to him, loaded with a variety of things brought from town. But this was his first time to see a dog. With knees locked like a quarter horse whose rider had just roped a calf, he bounced to a bone-jarring halt and watched. Some degree of communication must have passed between the two creatures or McBark could not have ignored this animal so effectively. But in the mirror I caught a glimpse of his true feeling. His eyes were large and the color of coffee beans. For a moment or two he could have passed for a harbor seal.

The remaining distance to the dog wash was a non-event, that is until we reached the parking lot. McBark was well acquainted with the Suds 'Em Yourself and he never shared our fondness for the external uses of water and refused to cooperate.

Suds 'Em Yourself is a do-it-yourself endeavor frequented by many. We were perhaps half finished with McBark's bath when a young man arrived with a brown terrier-like dog in tow. After a few brief moments the dog was snubbed to a steel ring and left facing me while he was receiving his initial phases of a dog bath. Try as I could, I was unable to ignore this mutt's sorrowful eyes pleading for me to do something in his behalf. It was at that moment his bather cast a glance in my direction. I felt a jolt to the soles of my shoes. He and the

dog were two peas in a pod. The shock sent me reeling back some 30 years to an Easter Sunday service.

The minister, stricken ill minutes before time for church, phoned, asking that someone perform the service for him. From my seat I could see the expression on the Elder's face as he learned he would be delivering the sermon this spring morning. Rising to his feet, he trudged to the pulpit. Leaning on his forearms, he studied the faces of those in the congregation, first one, then the next. Minutes, it seemed, passed and finally the stress began to leave his face and he said: "What I've heard is not true. They've always told me that we take on the features of those we live with. But I don't see anyone here who looks like their dog." How unfortunate Elder was not present at the *Suds 'Em Yourself* on this day.

Finished, it was time to put McBark back in the trailer. But he was on to us and in spite of the fact there were twice as many of us as there was of him it was a battle. In time we won and cycled the return trip home.

Since that time, we've spent the summer in Why, Arizona and McBark's attitude toward cycling has done a complete switch. He's become quite eager to occupy the trailer wherever we go. In fact, here in Coyote Howls Park, home to untold numbers of darting lizards and scurrying ground squirrels, McBark has all but given up the chase. We've scratched our heads in dismay, wondering what could have caused such an attitude change toward cycling. Is it the hot sand, or the absences of ugly surprises at trails end. Perhaps this is an ongoing story and the next chapter will be revealed when arrival back in Oregon next spring. Until then, we really can't be certain who's being taken for a ride.

WEBMASTER'S CORNER

Several BMHA members have links on the BMHA website to their personal web pages – please visit them at <http://www.LaFetra.com/BMHA/WebMembers.htm>. You can have your own link added – just send an E-mail with your URL and callsign to Webmaster@LaFetra.com. That's all there is to it.

Visit <http://www.lafetra.com/bmha/WhatsNew.htm> to see new capabilities of the website.

If you would like your own website but don't have one, check out QSL.NET at <http://www.qsl.net> – they offer free personal websites to hams.

More Info Regarding the Internet (by KE4WMF)

With the Internet rapidly becoming a part of daily life, it seems BMHA has a need to expand to this medium. Using the Internet for club issues can save money as well as foster rapid communication. We already have a very comprehensive website, thanks to Skip Le Fetra, AA6WK. I still see more growth as technology advances and becomes accessible to more club members. My mind went whizzing away with ideas after seeing the need for assistance with club issues. After lots of brainstorming, I discussed several things with a few club officers. Here are the results:

More Info Regarding the Internet, continued

1) BMHA now has an e-mail discussion group at [egroups.com](http://www.egroups.com). This will allow club members and curious non-members to communicate with each other and get an immediate response. This can range anywhere from, "How do I solve my SWR problem?" to "Does anyone want to get together for a group ride in Denver?" Visit <http://www.egroups.com/group/BicycleMobileHams> to learn more. Participating in a discussion is as simple as sending e-mail to BicycleMobileHams@egroups.com. Those with e-mail only can subscribe to this list by e-mailing BicycleMobileHams-subscribe@egroups.com. Acquiring "BMHA" as a group name is in the works. I will make an announcement when I acquire the name "BMHA."

2) Discussions have been had regarding switching the BMHA Newsletter to an electronic format, such as Internet and/or e-mail attachments. For those of you without the Internet - DON'T WORRY! I'm against the total elimination of the paper Newsletter. However, I AM in favor of anything that saves time, money, and workload. This Newsletter was created with Microsoft Word 97. If you have the ability to read Word files and would like to convert your subscription to an electronic format, e-mail me at ke4wmf@aol.com. I will either create a list of electronic subscribers and send a mass mailout with an attachment, or I will send a mass mailout with a URL. I'm also considering the Adobe Acrobat format, which is easily read by anyone after downloading a free reader program. However, Acrobat is an expensive program and not a purchase I will consider soon. I will keep everyone informed if I opt to change to this format.

3) Some of you have computers, but are not online due to the expense of it all. Did you know there are FREE Internet service providers out there? Juno, Free-I, and NetZero are just a few (no endorsement intended). Contact me for details.

4) See "COMMENTS" on back for more...

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Throat Mikes, revisited from the last edition

BMHA Webmaster:

I am interested in a throat microphone with a PTT that will fit in a glove. I want to use my HT on a snowmobile. The throat microphone would cut down on the noise. It was suggested that the SPM-500 by Premier Electronics would do the trick. It has a "fingertip" PTT. Such a PTT would make operation of the radio on a snowmobile fairly convenient. Any thoughts?

David Smith
Nain, Labrador, Canada

The Editor's comments on throat mikes:

I tried a throat mike to reduce the noise level during my bicycle commute. Other stations found my voice to sound muffled, but they could understand me. I'm not sure if sweat on my neck was a factor, but the throat mike would eventually rotate around my neck. This happened as I checked over my shoulder for traffic. You may not have this problem on a snowmobile.

I switched to an SPM-400, which is a boom mike that rests on the user's ear. Other stations found my voice crystal-clear. Background noise was present, but not a problem.

I have my PTT mounted to the handlebar. Pushing the button through thick gloves is tough, but possible. My theory on mounting locations: If the radio is mounted to the bike, the PTT should be, also. If you wear the radio, wear the PTT. This eliminates tethering the rider to the bike.

Good luck!

Scott Farrell, KE4WMF

Membership Application

BICYCLE MOBILE HAMS OF AMERICA

Date _____

C/o Mike Nickolaus, NF0N

316 E. 32nd St. - I

South Sioux City, NE 68776-3512

Individual \$10 _____
(US or Canada)

New member? _____

Renewal? _____

Family \$15 _____
(limit: two persons)

Foreign \$15 _____

Donation \$ _____

Make check payable to BMHA, in US dollars or international money order.

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ License Class _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____ @ _____

Age _____ Most miles bicycled in one day _____

Would you like the BMHA Newsletter in paper copy via snail mail _____

OR via the internet as an e-mail attachment _____ (please check only one)

BMHA's Official Logo

The next time you need to order new QSL cards, don't forget to include the BMHA logo in your design. Here's the official logo, as designed by Russ Dwarshuis, KB8U.

BICYCLE MOBILE



HAMS OF AMERICA

BICYCLE MOBILE



HAMS OF AMERICA

BMHA NEWSLETTER

Bicycle Mobile Hams of America
c/o Mike Nickolaus, NF0N
316 E. 32nd St. - I
South Sioux City, NE 68776-3512

First Class Mail

COMMENTS and LETTERS

Via the Internet...

"I would like to meet a Bicycle Ham in NY or PA."

Martin Stratton
KC2CWN@juno.com

Hello and Greetings from the Caribbean:

As a cyclist, I love riding in different areas and environments. And as you are a cycling club whose members obviously share love for a ride, I wanted to let you know we have established exclusive trails in coastal tropical jungle amid ruins of a 1700's plantation here in St. Lucia. Our Jungle Biking Adventure is great for all levels of riders, groups, or individuals.

If you or any of your club members would like to ride in a tropical jungle the next time they're down this way, our web site is available for viewing at <http://www.bikestlucia.com>.

Enjoy the trails.

Michael Allard
Director, Adventure Sports

More info from the Editor:

Another discussion that came up while I was "applying" for the editor position was the possibility of switching the Newsletter to a less-than-quarterly format. Instead of a "quarterly publication," it would be "published periodically." This suggestion was largely due to the availability of a comprehensive website.

I'm against a periodic publication because there would be no deadlines, nor would there be any way for members to know when to expect their next Newsletter. I would much rather produce a thin, quarterly publication that's on time than a thick, periodic publication that leaves BMHA members wondering if they've been dropped from the member list while they're waiting for the next issue.

With that said, I really need BMHA members to realize that the BMHA Newsletter requires INPUT from BMHA members. Sure, I can fill in a few holes with random content from our affiliates in other clubs. But that would leave us short of BICYCLE-MOBILE material. That's where YOU come into play. Please submit articles and letters to be included in future Newsletters. Your input will keep it alive. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

73,

Scott Farrell, KE4WMF